

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method for assuring a quality of service of connections between at least two subregions of a packet-oriented network, at least one connection path between the subregions has a prescribed scope of transmission system resources, which comprises the steps of:

providing each of the subregions with an associated item of subregion information being represented by an item of address information or dialing information;

signaling the associated item of subregion information associated with an originating subregion and a destination subregion and also signaling requested resources, if a connection is initialized; and

authorizing the connection to be initialized from the originating subregion to the destination subregion taking into account the requested resources and the transmission system resources available between the subregions.

2 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the quality of service of the connections in at least one of the subregions is assured for at least one other of the subregions.

3 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, which comprises representing the associated item of subregion information by an item of user group information, the item of user group information having ~~one of an~~ the item of address information ~~and~~ or the dialing information.

4 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises subdividing the subregions of the packet-oriented network into further subranges, the further subranges are each allocated some of the transmission system resources of the at least one connection path.

5 (original). The method according to claim 4, which comprises representing the further subranges by user groups having different services.

6 (original). The method according to claim 4, which comprises forming the packet-oriented network based on ITU-T Standard H.323, and the subregions are formed by local zones,

with a gatekeeper being provided at least in one of the subregions for switching the connections and voice links.

7 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises forming the subregions as Internet sections with part of an Internet address determining an Internet section.

8 (original). The method according to claim 6, which comprises allocating one of groups of telephone numbers and parts of the telephone numbers to the subregions for the voice links through one of the subregions and for Voice over Internet links.

9 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining the transmission system resources by one of an item of bandwidth information and a number of connections having a prescribed item of bandwidth information.

10 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises, if there is a plurality of connection paths between the subregions, prescribing individual transmission resources for each of the connection paths and a summation of the individual transmission resources together forming the transmission system resources.

11 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises allocating each of the associated item of subregion information different transmission priorities.

12 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises representing the associated item of subregion information by an item of user group information, the item of user group information having an association between groups of address information items for the packet-oriented network and the subregions.

13 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises representing the associated item of subregion information by an item of user group information, the item of user group information having an association between groups of Layer 2 information items and the subregions.

14 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises representing the associated item of subregion information by an item of user group information, the item of user group information having an association between parts of an item of address information and the subregions.

15 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises representing the associated item of subregion information by an item of user group information, the item of user group information having an item of organizational information for the subregions.

16 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises representing the associated item of subregion information by an item of user group information, the item of user group information having an association between parts of a dialing information and the subregions.

17 (original). The method according to claim 4, which comprises representing the further subranges by user groups having different service classes.